United Nations S/2001/1189

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2001
English
Original: French

Letter dated 11 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the Middle East issued on 10 December 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jean **de Ruyt**
Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

01-69469 (E) 131201 131201

Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Middle East issued on 10 December 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

At a time when the situation in the Middle East is extremely serious, we cannot be inactive.

We are convinced that only determined and concerted action by the European Union, the United Nations, the United States and the Russian Federation can help the parties to break the cycle of violence and commit themselves once again to the search for peace. This requires:

- the reaffirmation and full recognition of Israel's irrevocable right to live in peace and security within internationally recognized borders;
- the establishment of a viable and democratic Palestinian State and an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories.

As a first step, the following pledges must be given:

- by the Palestinian Authority: the dismantling of Hamas's and Islamic Jihad's terrorist networks, including the arrest and prosecution of all suspects; a public appeal in Arabic for an end to the armed intifada;
- by the Government of Israel: the withdrawal of its military forces and a stop to extrajudicial executions; the lifting of closures and of all restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people; a freeze on settlements.

On the basis of this European Union position and in the light of the discussions which we have had today in Brussels with Shimon Peres and Nabil Chaath, we have asked Javier Solana, Secretary-General/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, to go to the region and report back to the European Council at Laeken.

The aim is to contribute, in concertation with the United Nations, the United States and the Russian Federation Common Foreign and Security Policy, to a speedy resumption of negotiations, without preliminaries.